

SHORT NOTES ON RECENT DISCOVERIES.

Read before the Geological Section, April 22nd, 1895.

BY COL. C. C. GRANT.

The beautiful collection of Algæ (sea) and land plants presented to the Hamilton Association by our late lamented friend, Professor Wright, finds a fitting and honored place in the Botanical Case. Such specimens, however, as come under the head "Sertularia" (*Halcyonoid Polyyps*) are of animal, not vegetable, nature, and are undoubtedly out of place there. Admitting that we cannot recognize them as fossils, yet they are considered by many Palæontologists here and in Europe to be so nearly allied to the extinct Graptolites of former ages that doubts have been expressed whether these modern forms may not actually prove to be merely modified by surrounding circumstances, at least in some instances. To restrict this section merely to fossilized organic remains would place it at a great disadvantage, since we are compelled to investigate the past life from the still existing. If the Council were in a position to provide a case open to public examination, it would prove an additional attraction to the visitors.

AN ANCIENT FOSSIL CORAL FROM THE CLINTON
ROCKS, HAMILTON.

In a collection of fossils brought from the Arctic regions some years ago, the late Dr. Salter recognized a coral (*Syringopora*) supposed to be characteristic of the Devonian formation. As it was associated, however, with other fossils of undoubted Upper Silurian (lower Helderberg type), he claimed it as the oldest discovered. The specimen submitted for the inspection of the Geological Section takes it back to another stage, viz., to the time when the Clinton beds were deposited. It occurs a little above the Medina grey-band in the lower shales. As far as I can learn no *Syringopora*